

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 AID-05

AGR-05 L-03 SS-15 H-02 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

ACDA-05 /086 W

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R 051345Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 621

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

DEA WASHDC

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJ: PRESS COVERAGE OF TURKISH OPIUM POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM

REF: (A) ANKARA 6497 (NOTAL); (B) ANKARA 6516 (NOTAL);
(C) IZMIR 211 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: POPPY-RELATED ITEMS IN TURKISH PRESS HAVE
INCREASED IN NUMBER RECENTLY, PARTICULARLY REGARDING
GOT DELAY IN PROMULGATING A NEW LICENSING DECREE. END
SUMMARR.

1. ON AUGUST 29 SMALL IZMIR DAILY DEMOKARAT IZMIR,
ECHOED ON AUGUST 30 BY MASS-CIRCULATION GUNAYDIN, CARRIED
A STORY ASSERTING THAT A GROUP OF 12 AMERICAN EXPERTS WAS
TOURING THE POPPY REGION. BOTH ARTICLES, BASED ON DISPATCH
FROM ISTA (A SMALL ISTANBUL-BASED NEWS SERVICE) SAID
THAT GROUP INCLUDED ONE OR MORE CIA AGENTS. (COMMENT:
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NAMES GIVEN IN DEMOKRAT IZMIR ARTICLE WERE THOSE

OF PERSONS WHO HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE JOINT TURKISH-AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL STUDY TEAM IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1971 RPT 1971.)

2. AUGUST 30 GUNAYDIN AND MASS-CIRCULATION HURRIYET CARRIED ACCOUNTS OF ARTICLE BY FRANCE SOIR CORRESPONDENT ROGER COLOMBANI TOURING POPPY REGION. COLOMBANI IS QUOTED AS WRITING "THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF TIGHT CONTROL BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED NATIONS THE POPPY HARVEST HAS BEEN DONE WITHOUT INCISION. HOWEVER, WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT YEAR IS STILL UNKNOWN." ACCORDING TO GUNAYDIN, THE MAYOR OF AFYON TOLD COLOMBANI, "WE ARE NOT AN AMERICAN COLONY. WE OURSELVES WILL INDEPENDENTLY DECIDE ON OUR COUNTRY'S AND OUR PEOPLE'S FUTURE...IF SOME PEOPLE TODAY IN AMERICA WANT TO TAKE POISON THIS ISN'T OUR FAULT."

3. YENI ORTAM, ISTANBUL SOCIALIST DAILY, REPORTED ON AUGUST 31 THAT THE TURKISH SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY HAD ISSUED A STATEMENT BY ITS GOVERNING COUNCIL ACCUSING THE NATIONALIST FRONT GOVERNMENT OF PREPARING CONCESSIONS (OF AN UNSPECIFIED NATURE) TO THE USG ON THE POPPY QUESTION.

4. ALSO ON AUGUST 31 GUNAYDIN NOTED THAT THE DECREE TO REGULATE NEXT SEASON'S POPPY CROP WAS TWO MONTHS OVERDUE AND ANNOUNCED "ACCORDING TO THE LAW, IF LICENSES ARE NOT GIVEN TO THE FARMER IN THE NEXT MONTH (I.E., SEPTEMBER) POPPY PLANTING WILL NOT TAKE PLACE IN TURKEY THIS YEAR." LATER IN THE ARTICLE, GUNAYDIN ASSERTED THAT EVEN IF A NEW DECREE WAS NOT ISSUED, LICENSING COULD OCCUR ON THE BASIS OF LAST YEAR'S.

5. SEPTEMBER 3 LIBERAL MILLIYET AND LEFTIST CUMHURİYET REPORTED THAT A REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) SENATOR FROM MALATYA HAD PRESENTED THE GOVERNMENT WITH AN INTERROGATORY MOTION ACCUSING THE GOVERNMENT OF HAVING MISLED THE FARMERS OF MALATYA BY STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) DEPUTY PRİMİN ERBAKAN DURING HIS MAY TOUR OF EASTERN TURKEY TO THE EFFECT THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POPPY CULTIVATION WOULD BE PERMITTED IN THAT PROVINCE. THE RPP SENATOR CLAIMED THAT MALATYA FARMERS HAD SUSTAINED A TL 500 MILLION LOSS ON THIS ACCOUNT. AS REGARDS THE DECREE ON PLANTING (ABOVE) THE CUMHURİYET ARTICLE SPECULATED THAT THE DECREE'S DELAY WAS DUE TO OPPOSITION ON PART OF OTHER COALITION PARTNERS TO A PLAN BY NSP MINAGRICULTURE TO EXTEND POPPY CULTIVATION TO MALATYA AND AMASYA PROVINCES. PRİMİN DEMİREL, "NOT WANTING TO

ANGER THE NSP," HAD SUPPOSEDLY SIGNED SUCH A DECREE BUT REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY (RR) DEPUTY PRIMIN FEYZIOGLU HAD VETOED IT AT DEMIREL'S INSTIGATION. ACCORDING TO CUMHURIYET, PRESIDENT FORD HAD TOLD DEMIREL IN HELSINKI THAT EXTENDING THE POPPY AREA TO TWO MORE PROVINCES WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON CONGRESS' RECONSIDERATION OF THE ARMS EMBARGO.

6. ON SEPT 4 AN EDITORIAL IN GUNAYDIN ALSO ASCRIBED THE DECREE'S DELAY TO DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE JUSTICE PARTY (JP) AND NSP AS WELL AS THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF THE DECREE ON CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF THE ARMS EMBARGO. GUNAYDIN CHARGED THAT TURKISH FARMERS STOOD TO LOSE TL ONE BILLION DUE TO GOVERNMENTAL INDECISION. IN ANOTHER ARTICLE GUNAYDIN REPORTED THAT RPP DEPUTY FROM URFA HAD FORMALLY ASKED THE GOVERNMENT THE REASONS FOR ITS DELAY AND IF THE DELAY REPRESENTED A NEW BAN ON POPPY CULTIVATION. THIS WAS ALSO REPORTED BY CUMHURIYET AND MILLIYET.

7. ON THE SAME DATE CUMHURIYET CARRIED A FRONT PAGE REPORT THAT THE MINAGRICULTURE HAS NOW ORDERED THE TMO TO LICENSE POPPY FARMERS ON THE BASIS OF LAST YEAR'S REGULATORY DECREE. IN THE EVENT A NEW DECREE WAS ISSUED YET LATER THIS YEAR, THE MINISTRY PROMISED THAT THE TMO WOULD BE INFORMED AT THAT TIME.

(COMMENT: WE ARE SEEKING TO CONFIRM ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS TO TMO REGARDING LICENSING.)

8. CONSERVATIVE ISTANBUL DAILIES TERCUMAN AND SON HAVADIS SEPTEMBER 5 QUOTED DEPUTY PRIMIN FEYZIOGLU AS SAYING THAT THE POPPY PLANTING WILL TAKE PLACE AS PLANNED THIS FALL. ACCORDING TO SON HAVADIS, FEYZIOUGLU SAID THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LAST SEASON'S REGULATIONS WOULD BE APPLIED TO THE NEW PLANTING. IN TERCUMAN FEYZIOGLU IS QUOTED ASSAYING "THE STATE WILL BUY THE TOTAL POPPY CAPSULE CROP. SMUGGLING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE. TURKEY HAS DECIDED TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN ALKALOID PLANT IN ORDER TO CONTROL THE POPPY." EHKHIDTQ GE IS AN ARTICLE

HEADLINED "THE NATIONAL FRONT GOVERNMENT SUBMITS TO THE UNITED STATES' WISHES ON OPIUM." THE ARTICLE ACCUSES THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT OF PREPARING TO LIMIT POPPY CULTIVATION AS WELL AS TO GIVE TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS IN CYPRUS TO INSURE THE LIFTING OF THE AMERICAN ARMS EMBARGO. UNNAMED EXPERTS ARE SAID TO VIEW MINAGRICULTURE ORDER TO BEGIN LICENSING OF POPPY FARMERS AS "MERE SHOW." MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG TRAFFIC, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, PRESS COMMENTS, EXPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANKARA06840
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750308-0667
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750977/aaaacqdl.tel
Line Count: 169
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ANKARA 6497, 75 ANKARA 6516
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS COVERAGE OF TURKISH OPIUM POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM
TAGS: SNAR, TU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006